

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BEAUMONT DIVISION

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT
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IN RE NORPLANT CONTRACEPTIVE §
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION §
§

MDL No. 1038
ALL CASES

TX EASTERN-BEAUMONT

BY

Beverly Aulbrough

**ORDER DENYING MOTION TO DISSOLVE PLAINTIFFS' STEERING
COMMITTEE AND MODIFYING THE PSC'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Pending before the court is the "Motion to Dissolve the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee and Transfer Document Depository" (Dkt. #735) filed November 5, 1999. The current members of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee ("PSC") ask the court to relieve them of their responsibilities on the PSC in light of the impending settlement of most Norplant cases and the winding down of their individual caseloads. In a telephone conference with the parties on November 18, 1999, the court expressed concerns about dissolving the PSC without first identifying a successor entity that, among other things, will assume responsibility for maintaining the plaintiffs' document depository. Because a complete list of non-settling plaintiffs from whom a successor entity can be formed will not be available until Defendants' settlement program has been consummated next spring, the court indicated its preference to leave the PSC intact but relieve it of the duty to respond to any pending motions on behalf of non-settling plaintiffs until that time. The parties agreed to proceed in this manner.

Accordingly, the "Motion to Dissolve the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee and Transfer Document Depository" is hereby DENIED. The PSC is directed to continue maintaining the document depository in New Orleans until further order of the court but is released from its responsibility to respond to any motions on behalf of non-settling plaintiffs. The PSC is invited to reurge its motion to dissolve once Defendants' settlement program has been fully consummated. It is so ORDERED.

SIGNED this the 29th day of November, 1999.

Richard A. Schell

RICHARD A. SCHELL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE